



Topic: Travel Management on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Background: Most of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has historically been open to cross-country motor vehicle use. Roads and trails on the Forest arose through use, or date from early minerals exploration – very few were constructed by the agency.

Managing recreation, including use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), was one of former Chief Dale Bosworth's legacy "four threats or issues" affecting National Forests and Grasslands. In 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule for providing motor vehicle access to these federal lands. The final rule requires each National Forest and Grassland to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. The rule itself does not designate roads or areas for motor vehicles, but provides a framework for making those decisions at the local level.

The process to analyze and develop the route designation plan includes:

- Ample local public involvement opportunities in the route designation process;
- Coordination with counties, states, tribes, and all agencies at all levels; and,
- Appropriate environmental analysis, final decision documents, and a route designation process that is consistent with, but separate from, the Forest Plan Revision process.

Current Status: Seven travel management documents and their respective status are listed below:

- *Spring Mountains NRA* – The second motor vehicle use map (MVUM) was published this month, February, 2009.
- *Santa Rosa Ranger District* – The first MVUM was published in 2008.
- *Ely Ranger District* – The Environmental Assessment (EA), Decision Notice, and MVUM will be published in 2009.
- *Carson Ranger District* – The MVUM was published in 2008 based on the existing travel plan and orders as modified by recent decisions for Peavine, Martis, and Clear Creek areas.
- *Austin/Tonopah Ranger Districts* – The EA, Decision Notice, and MVUM will be published in summer of 2009.
- *Bridgeport Ranger District* - The EA, Decision Notice, and MVUM will be published in fall of 2009.
- *Mountain City/Jarbridge/Ruby Mountains* –Scoping of significant decisions began in January of 2009. The EA, Decision Notice, and MVUM will be published in winter of 2009.

Key Contact:

Jerry Ingersoll, Deputy Forest Supervisor

775-355-5309